

Bracha Breakdown

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Q: I mistakenly said *v'sein tal umatar l'vracha* in the *bracha* of *Bareich aleinu*, although it isn't supposed to be said for another month. How can this be rectified?

A: If one forgets to recite *v'sein tal umatar l'vracha* in the winter and has already completed the *bracha*, he can just wait until reaching *Shema koleinu* and insert the words *v'sein tal umatar l'vracha* there. The error of omission can be easily rectified by inserting the omitted words later. In your case, however, you have the opposite problem: You made a request for rain at the wrong time of year, so you must rectify the *bracha* itself. How to proceed?



If you recognized the error while still in the *bracha* of *Bareich aleinu*, even after saying Hashem's name in the concluding *bracha*, the Mishnah Berurah rules (117:19) that you should conclude the *bracha* with the words *lamdeini chukecha*, which is a *pasuk* in Tehillim, and then repeat *Bareich aleinu* again from the beginning with *v'sein bracha*. Other *poskim* say that reciting a *pasuk* in the middle of *Shemoneh Esrei* constitutes a forbidden *hefsek* (interruption). Rather, they argue, one should conclude the *bracha* in the normal manner and then recite it again with *v'sein bracha*.

If you realized the error after having already begun the next *bracha*, *Teka b'shofar*, return to the beginning of *Bareich aleinu* and recite it again with *v'sein bracha*.

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We recently received a question on a related issue: A man made a *bracha* on milk and suddenly realized that he had eaten meat within the last six hours. Should he drink the milk, and violate the requirement to wait, or not drink it, and make the *bracha* a *bracha l'vatalah*?

Many *poskim*, including the Sedei Chemed (Vol. 5, p. 290), rule that if at least one hour has passed since he ate meat, he may drink the milk, as one hour suffices for waiting after meat when faced with the problem of a *bracha l'vatalah* (see Rama Y.D. 89:1). R' Ovadiah Yosef (Yechaveh Da'as 4:41) holds that since according to the strict rule of the Gemara, one need only wait until the next meal to eat dairy after eating meat, he may drink the milk even if less than an hour has elapsed in order to avoid a *bracha l'vatalah*.

